

A NEW *BATHYDRILUS* (OLIGOCHAETA: TUBIFICIDAE) FROM THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

Bathydrylus notabilis is described from 4–58.5 m depths off Crystal River and Dry Tortugas in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. The species is characterized by large, finely pectinate, penial setae (3–4 per bundle) in segment XI and entally curved, single-pointed, spermathecal setae (1 or 2 on each side) in X which distinguish it from all congeners.

The marine tubificid genus *Bathydrylus* Cook, 1970 (subfamily Phallodrilinae) was revised by Erséus (1979). Some of its members are small, deep-sea forms (Erséus, 1983), but the remaining species are rather large (by comparison to other marine tubificids) and confined to shallow waters. Four such coastal species already known from Florida are *B. adriaticus* (Hrabe, 1971) and three species recently described by Erséus (1986): *B. macroprostatus*, *B. formosus* and *B. ingens*. All four species are characterized by possession of modified penial setae (2 or 3 per bundle) in segment XI.

During a study of estuarine and marine oligochaetes of Crystal River on Florida's west coast, sponsored by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the second author found an additional species of *Bathydrylus* which, in addition to penial setae, also possesses modified spermathecal setae (in segment X). That species, described herein, was also encountered in samples from offshore stations near Dry Tortugas, southwest Florida. Those specimens originated from a study of southwest Florida ecosystems sponsored by the U.S. Minerals Management Service (formerly Bureau of Land Management).

The fixed specimens were stained in paracarine and mounted whole in either Amman's lactophenol (for setal measurements) or Canada balsam. The type specimens are deposited at the National Museum of Natural History (USNM), Washington, D.C.

Bathydrylus notabilis new species Figures 1, 2

Holotype.—USNM 101458, whole-mounted specimen from WNW of Dry Tortugas, 24°47.11'N, 83°13.08'W, 58.5 m, fine sand (coll. 23 Apr 1981; J. K. Culter).

Paratype.—USNM 101459, whole-mounted specimen from 2.6 miles off mouth of Crystal River, 28°58.7'N, 82°48.7'W, 4 m, coarse sand and shells (coll. Nov 1984; M. R. Milligan).

Other Material.—(in second author's collection).—Eleven specimens from WNW of Dry Tortugas (coll. 23 Apr 1981; J. K. Culter): 5 from the type locality and 6 from 24°47.95'N, 82°13.26'W, 25 m, silt and clay. One specimen from the locality of the paratype.

Description.—Length (only two complete specimens) 10.6–11.6 mm, 64–66 segments. Width at XI, 0.28–0.48 mm. Epidermal glands not observed (absent?). Clitellum extending over X–XII when developed. Somatic setae bifid, sigmoid, 45–65 μ m long, 3–3.5 μ m thick at node, in anterior segments with upper tooth thinner and slightly shorter than lower (Fig. 1A), in postclitellar segments with upper tooth much reduced (Fig. 1B). Setae (2)3–4 per bundle anteriorly, (1)2 per bundle in postclitellar segments. Ventral setae of X modified into spermathecal

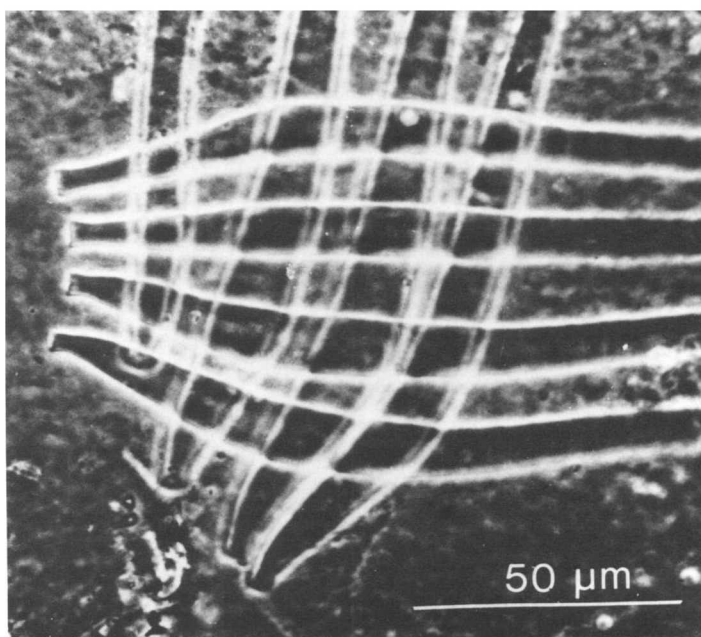


Figure 2. *Bathydrilus notabilis*, new species. Penial setae.

Mexico species, in that they are curved and have bifid tips. However, the tips in the new species are finely pectinate (Fig. 1C), a feature not seen in other species of the genus.

Etymology.—The species name *notabilis* is Latin for “remarkable, noteworthy,” here primarily referring to the genital setation.

Distribution and Habitat.—Known only from the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Subtidal, fine to coarse sediments, 4–58.5 m depth.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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